

Fairfax County Commission on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation 2013 - A Year in Review

The Commission on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation (referred to as “the Commission”) is dedicated to increasing the awareness of all citizens of Fairfax County regarding organ and tissue donation through education and coordination of resources which results in increased organ and tissue donation and removing barriers to donation in the county.

In the County of Fairfax for 2013, Inova Fairfax Hospital performed 153 transplants: 100 kidney transplants, 5 kidney/pancreas transplants, 28 lung transplants and 20 heart transplants. Forty-seven heart assist devices and one total artificial heart were implanted into patients either waiting for heart transplant or as a permanent therapy.

In the County of Fairfax for 2013, the **Old Dominion Eye Foundation, Inc. (ODEF)** had 37 eye/cornea donors, resulting in 38 eyes/corneas for transplant and 36 eyes went toward research into chronic and acute eye diseases. In Fairfax County, ODEF provided 126 corneas/eye tissue for transplant to Fairfax County Residents (6 of these were patients who had no insurance so all fees were waived). ODEF is actively working with Georgetown University’s research program.

In 2013 the national transplant list for those needing an organ exceeded 121,000 individuals, a five percent increase from prior year. Nationally, the need for ocular tissue is met, and the clinical need for most other tissue graft types is also being fulfilled.

Without the courage of designated donors and families who must make a choice about donation, there would not be organs and tissues available for transplant. The **Washington Regional Transplant Community (WRTC)**, the organ, eye and tissue recovery agency that serves Fairfax County, recovered 381 organs for transplantation from 126 deceased donors throughout its Donation Service Area (DSA). There were 280 tissue donors, 153 cornea donors and 16 research only donors, although 58 organ, eye and tissue donors also donated for research as well as transplantation. WRTC reports that in 2013 Inova Fairfax Hospital was the largest donor hospital of 44 in its DSA, with 27 deceased organ donors giving the gift of life out of 44 medically suitable possible donors. Additionally, in WRTC’s service area, 52% of all organ donors, 58% of all tissue donors and 58% of all cornea/eye donors were registered in a state donor registry. This matches a 54% rate of donor registrations by adults 18+ in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

Commission’s Contact with the Board of Supervisors

- The Commission came before the Board of Supervisors in March 2012. The Board designated April 2012 as “Donate Life Month” in Fairfax County. Commission members accepted the proclamation at the March 20 Board meeting.

Outreach to Legislators

- The Board of Supervisors included the provision of immunosuppressant drug coverage for kidney transplant patients in its federal principles for human services, health and education.
- Commissioners met with their respective Supervisors to discuss outreach opportunities in the community based on zip-code level donor registration rates. Areas with low donor registration rates have been identified for targeted outreach efforts.

The Commission and the Community

- Celebrate Fairfax- The Commission with support from WRTC brought its message out to the community at the Celebrate Fairfax Festival held in June at the Government Center.
- Fall for Fairfax – The Commission continued its annual presence at the Fall festival.
- Brain Aneurysm Race for Awareness – Representatives from the Commission attended and raced in the 6th annual Susco 8K with 650 participants and 250 spectators.
- Commission Member, Nancy Susco, promoted organ and tissue donation at Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Ethic Days and participated in television station, NBC-4's, Health and Fitness Expo.
- Commission Member, Norma Jean Young, along with representatives from WRTC, oriented new hires at Inova Alexandria Hospital on organ, tissue, and eye donation.

The Commission's Partners

- **The Washington Regional Transplant Community** – Represented on the Commission by Cindy Speas, WRTC has supported promotional efforts of the Commission since its inception. Part of WRTC's mission is to provide resources and volunteers for donor awareness events and programs in its donation service area of 5.25 million people, which includes Fairfax County. As a result, WRTC works closely with the Commission to support its outreach efforts with County businesses, as well as with selected community events and programs. WRTC serves the Commission as a reference by apprising members of education and training opportunities, as well as providing updates on media stories on organ and tissue donation and transplantation. In 2013, WRTC initiated 37 community events in Fairfax County. Additionally, 30 WRTC trained Friends for Life volunteers helped staff the Celebrate Fairfax and Fall for Fairfax events sponsored by the COTD.
- **The American Association of Tissue Banks** – Represented on the Commission by Scott Brubaker, the AATB's Chief Policy Officer, the AATB has been indirectly working for the Commission by affecting change to national and

international tissue banking guidelines and educational materials. The AATB maintains a strong presence with regulators and standards-setting organizations nationally and internationally and supports new efforts by the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide guiding principles that enhance the safety of cell and tissue transplants everywhere.

- **The National Kidney Foundation** –Represented on the Commission by Roger Wesley, the NKF continues to focus on prevention activities in the community, conducting testing and making referrals as needed. The Foundation also has printed materials and a detailed web-site on Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). NKF is also responsible for patient advocacy, as well as funding of research grants and aid at area medical schools. NKF looks forward to potential joint efforts in educating the public about kidney disease and expanding screening for early detection and, when necessary, treatment referral.
- **Old Dominion Eye Foundation, Inc.** –In 2013 ODEF was involved in several educational programs at local colleges, high schools, hospitals, and civic groups

Commission Changes and Concerns

- *Resignations:* *Patricia McCabe, Fairfax City*
- *Appointments:* *Carmen Cintron, Mount Vernon District*
- *Expired Terms:* *Nancy Susco, At-Large (reappointed)*
 Lillian Heizer, Minority Representative (reappointed)
 Rosalind Gold, Faith Community (reappointed)
- *Vacant Seats:* *Lee District*
 Providence District
 Fairfax City
 American Heart Association
- *Health Department Staffing for the Commission*
 - The Commission greatly appreciates the Health Department's staff, Sherryn Craig, for support during 2013.

A Look at 2014

- The Commission is working with the Health Department's Office of Information and Channel 16 to develop a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to raise awareness about the need for organ, eye, and tissue donation in Fairfax County.

Commission Members - 2013

Karl Simon, Hunter Mill District, Chairman
Charlie Dane, Braddock District, Vice Chair
Scott Brubaker, AATB
Deborah Campbell, Inova
Rosalind Gold, Faith Community
Lillian Heizer, Minority Representative
VACANT, Providence District
Dr. Howard Kelley, At-Large
Lisa Kory, Dranesville District
VACANT, Fairfax City
VACANT, Lee District
Carmen Cintron, Mount Vernon District
Robert Neuman, Donor Family Member
Dorothy O'Rourke, Sully District
William Proctor, Old Dominion Eye Foundation , Inc.
VACANT, American Heart Association
Cindy Speas, Washington Regional Transplant Community
Col. (USA Ret) William J. Stephens, Springfield District
Roger Wesley, National Kidney Foundation
Nancy Susco, At-Large
Norma Jean Young, Mason District